

Record

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BWA move sparks criticism, support

NASHVILLE (ABP and BP) — Despite pleas from Baptists around the world, there appears little chance Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders will reverse or delay their plan to withdraw the Southern Baptist Convention from the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), the 99-year-old international fellowship it helped create.

Theological concerns were recently cited by members of a BWA study committee, composed of SBC leaders, as the core reason for the committee's recommendation of an exit from BWA.

More than a question of Southern Baptist biblical convictions, "the larger issue is the potential impact" on constituent bodies when the BWA "gives apparent approval" to various "aberrant theologies," the study committee stated.

The theological problems, according to the committee, involve "an increasing influence of positions contrary to the New Testament and to Baptist doctrines" — positions "being advocated in the various commissions and committees of the BWA" — stemming from "a number of European and North American conventions" with prominence in the BWA.

The study committee also noted: "A decided anti-American tone has emerged in recent years. Continued emphasis on women as pastors, frequent criticisms of the International Mission Board of Southern Baptists, refusal to allow open discussion on issues such as abortion, and the funding of questionable enterprises through Baptist World Aid provide just a surface sampling of what has transpired in recent years."

"Repeated appeals to BWA leadership have resulted in no substantive changes and few of any consequence," the committee said.

The study committee's Dec. 17 proposal sparked immediate objections from Baptists on six continents, including leaders from Indonesia, Australia, South Africa, Chile, Sri Lanka, Romania, Russia, and Norway.

However, SBC President Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in suburban Dallas, endorsed the study committee's report and underscored Southern Baptists' "forward-thinking faith and determination to cooperate with those who are truly impacting the world."

The BWA, as described by Graham, "is becoming a marginalized organization which is having a smaller and smaller influence for the Gospel of Christ around the world."

"In a world full of terrorists and extremists, we do not have time to play religious games or become bogged down in the quagmire of Baptist debates. It is time for Southern Baptists to move on and get busy fulfilling the Great Commission in our lifetime," he said.

"I, for one, will encourage our churches and convention to develop new Baptist and Christian alliances worldwide which will genuinely commit to the task of world evangelism and the testimony of Jesus Christ. This is the right and best decision for Southern Baptists," Graham stressed.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee and chair of the study committee that proposed the break, declined to predict if the nine-member

"This means I may have to live with the public criticisms of Southern Baptist leadership until we have something to say that is well thought-out before release."

World Baptist leaders are protesting both to the SBC's planned pullout and the allegations of liberalism the SBC says justifies the move. "We declare unacceptable the allegation of liberalism made by the committee," said Latin American Baptist leaders in one of the strongest statements.

"We deplore the recommendation of this committee," the statement continued, "and we urge strongly the Executive Committee and the assembly of the SBC to reject this recommendation outright, so that this great organization may remain as a member of the BWA and may continue supporting its funding."

The statement was signed by seven Latin American leaders from four countries, including Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos of Brazil, president of the Union of Baptists in Latin America, and two BWA vice presidents.

A similar statement was issued by another of the six regional BWA groups, the European Baptist Federation (EBF), which covers Europe and the Middle East. The EBF executive committee pleaded with Southern Baptists to maintain the unity of worldwide Baptists.

The report from the SBC study committee, which was drafted by Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, accused the Baptist World Alliance of "advocating aberrant and dangerous theologies" — specifically, questioning

biblical inerrancy, promoting women as pastors, and downplaying the doctrine of salvation only through Jesus.

Patterson could not be reached by ABP for comment on the report.

Meanwhile, several BWA leaders, including President Billy Kim of South Korea, insist the SBC's planned pullout is in response not to BWA's theological stance but its granting of membership to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

The CBF, which broke away from the SBC in 1991 after battling similar Southern Baptist charges of liberalism, was admitted to BWA in 2003 after a three-year process and over the objections of Southern Baptist representatives.

"Yet the CBF is not mentioned in the SBC document outlining why they are proposing withdrawal," said BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz. "Suddenly many accusations are made but CBF is not mentioned. And yet in Rio, SBC leaders came to us and said, 'If they (CBF) are in, we're out!'"

Lotz told ABP no official action or protest from the Virginia-based organization is likely before the SBC Executive Committee meets on Feb. 16.

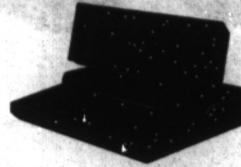
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Correction

On page four of the Jan. 15 issue, a reporter's error caused the publication of an incorrect address for mailing applications and nominations for the position of executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Anyone interested in applying for the position or making a nomination should send the information to MBF Executive Director Search, P.O. Box 89, Jackson, MS 39205-0089. The *Record* regrets the error.



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The takeover advances

Just a couple of weeks into the current legislative session and only a few days into a new gubernatorial administration, the scourge of legalized gambling is once again extending its unseemly tentacles in a most troubling way. Not content with monopolizing virtually every state and local government decision — "How will this affect the casinos?" is often the first question governing bodies ask on any given issue — gambling supporters have set their sights on the state's universities.

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg and Alcorn State University (ASU) in Lorman have announced that they will be lobbying an apparently pliant Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) for permission to offer academic degrees with gambling management majors.

"The universities are going to pursue the implementation of gaming programs and modification of existing programs that will allow us to meet the needs of the gaming industry," said William McHenry, IHL's Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, in a January 15 article in The Clarion-Ledger newspaper.

"We have people in this state who need jobs. We have people in this state who need high-paying jobs," said Roy Klumb of Gulfport, an IHL trustee, in The Clarion-Ledger article.

According to the newspaper, USM would offer a bachelor of business administration degree in tourism with an emphasis in casino and resort management, while ASU would offer a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a major in hospitality and gaming management.

In addition, four other Mississippi public universities are seeking to circumvent IHL and public opinion by simply modifying existing courses to include gambling-related subjects, which would not require formal

trustee approval. Those schools are Mississippi State University in Starkville, the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Delta State University in Cleveland, and Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena.

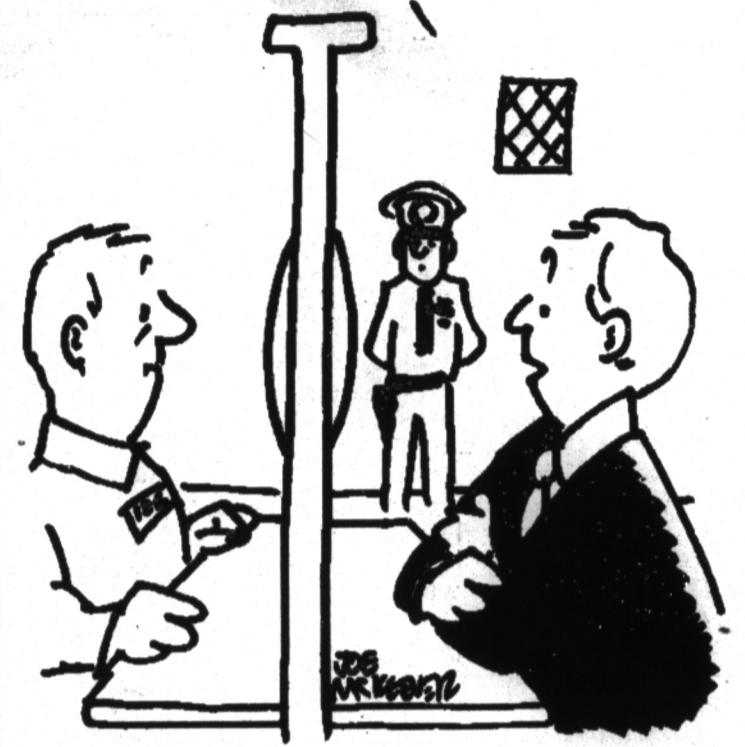
All the misleading degree descriptions and subterfuge being used by the universities is necessary because the state attorney general issued an opinion in 1997 that state law does not allow public schools of any type to offer courses and train students for gambling vocations. Thus, high-sounding words and deceitful maneuvering were required to get around the prohibition.

"It makes sense for these courses to be offered as an economic development tool. Two-year colleges should also have the option to train individuals in the industry as part of the vocational education area of instructional responsibility," stated an editorial published in The Clarion-Ledger 24 hours after the original article appeared.

In the interest of honest disclosure, it should be pointed out that the Clarion-Ledger, like almost every other secular news media outlet in the state, has become addicted to advertising revenue from the free-spending casinos. (See, the gamblers really have taken over every aspect of our public life in Mississippi.)

What's next? To carry this proposal to its logical end, the state's public schools should next offer bachelor's degrees in bartending and brothel management. A master's degree in tobacco sales would be in order, perhaps

"I GUESS IN A WAY YOU COULD CALL IT SEMANTICS. YOU CALL IT A MISTAKE, THE BIBLE CALLS IT A SIN, AND THE COURTS CALLED IT GRAND LARCENY."



with a major in cockfighting, and how could we get along in Mississippi without our universities teaching advanced courses in Internet pornography administration?

This silliness really needs to end. We were warned, but we didn't listen. The gambling/political complex in this state is already more powerful than anyone could have imagined when the first small riverboat opened for business on the Mississippi River. Don't let them extend their thirst for absolute control any farther. Don't let them take over our schools.

GUEST OPINION:

How much is good enough?

*By David Michel, Assoc. Exec. Director
For Missions Strategy,
Miss. Baptist Convention Board*

missed the goal. I've argued with my accounting friends that we could say "speaking ministerially" that \$1,479,462.90 is the same as one and a half million dollars — but they disagree!

Evaluating whether or not we met the goal raises questions worthy of discussion. I would be the last to criticize our efforts together, but how much is good enough? How much should the state mission offering be? I have said before that \$3 million should be our ultimate goal. That amount is affordable for Mississippi Baptists who are influential leaders in our state and active participants in pursuit of the kingdom of God. Our economic potential and affluence say that the \$1.48 million is not enough. With more than half of our state population unchurched, they certainly deserve

our most generous efforts to share the Gospel, and we bear that obligation as witnesses for Christ. The growing number of unchurched Mississippians say \$1.48 million is not enough. So, how much is good enough?

The question we pose is not unlike the one raised by the rich young ruler who approached Jesus for advice about inheriting eternal life (Matthew 19: 16-30). He was asking how good does a true disciple have to be. We all remember that conversation because it resulted in the young man's sad decision to turn away from following Christ. In his estimation, discipleship was too costly. Jesus refused to compromise his expectations, however, and brought into sharp relief the fact that no one is good enough to inherit the kingdom of God. No matter how many command-

ments we keep or how many dollars we give to state missions those actions do not qualify us for the kingdom of God. Even though they may not qualify us for eternal life, Jesus encouraged us to engage in them. It seems the spiritual exercise of obeying commandments or giving offerings is good for enriching our relationship with God. In the admission of our inability to keep enough commandments or reach a large enough goal, we discover the wonderful provision of God's grace and redemption. What we cannot accomplish even through strenuous effort, He freely supplies.

For that reason alone, in one breath we give thanks for the blessing of \$1.48 million, and in the next breath we realize that it, nor even \$3 million, is enough. We must always keep before us a goal that is unreachable. The essence of Christian obedience demands no less.

Reaching Mississippi and the world for Jesus calls us beyond our possibilities, but with God nothing is impossible. Pray with us and join us in this sacred mission as we set new goals for next year and challenge ourselves to discover more of the mysterious provision of God in our pursuit of His Kingdom.

Persecution around world at historic levels

WASHINGTON (BP) — The list of suffering reads like Hebrews 11: churches seized, people dragged from meetings and beaten to death, seeing their homes destroyed, or being arrested for carrying Bibles.

Instead of 2,000 years ago, however, such horrors occur daily across the world, according to several organizations that track reports of religious persecution. The situation is so bad that Forum 18 — an advocacy organization based in Oslo, Norway — lists erosion of religious freedom the past 10 years as its leading concern. Among the abuses:

- The slaughter of 10,000 Christians in Indonesia over the past five years. Jeff King, president of International Christian Concern (ICC) in Washington, said during this time 1,000 churches have been destroyed, along with 80,000 Christians' homes.

- The Washington-based Center for Religious Freedom reports that Vietnamese authorities are stepping up their campaign against minority Christians, in some instances threatening to murder spiritual leaders. Last year, the center reported that police beat three Hmong Christians to death, including the 10-year-old child of a church leader.

In addition, the Compass Direct (CD) news service in Santa Ana, Calif., has reported the impending trial of a Vietnamese house church leader arrested for resisting an officer last August.

- Compass Direct reported Dec. 29 that a Chinese house church leader died while in police custody after her arrest by police Oct. 29. The news service reported that Zhang Hongmei, 33, was seen at the police station in heavy chains and injured, and the next day her family learned she had died.

- In mid-December, Compass reported that a 51-year-old priest was murdered Nov. 14 in Colombia, the second priest to be

the story out," ICC's King said. "Most people don't know how bad things are."

David Miller, managing editor of Compass Direct, said various atrocities often don't involve mass numbers of victims and fail to generate headlines.

"There's very little interest in the mainline press," Miller pointed out. "People don't want to read about it. But it's happening, and people need to read about it."



VIOLENT END — A Christian church on the Indonesian island of Ambon is one of many around the world that have been demolished by Islamic fundamentalists and other groups bent on destroying the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Churches are continually being closed down or burned to prevent believers from worshipping, and many Christians have been martyred in the last year alone. (BP photo courtesy of International Christian Concern)

killed in the country over a three-week period.

Religious freedom organizations encourage Americans to intercede for believers in other parts of the world and spread the word about their plight.

"Americans can help by just telling others and getting

Felix Corley, editor of Forum 18 News Service, said the continuing — and in some cases, intensified — nature of attacks on religious freedoms of all people are particularly bothersome.

Forum 18 has reported on the seizure of a Methodist church in Moscow and the arrest of a Baptist pastor in Turkmenistan. Among other situations Forum 18 is following are continued state atheism in Belarus, repression practiced by Azerbaijan and continued toleration of violence against religious minorities in the former Soviet state of Georgia.

"Sadly, there are other countries which could be added to that list, as well as countries like Saudi Arabia and Indonesia," Corley said.

Saudi Arabia and Indonesia were among offenders listed in the latest International Religious Freedom Report, released Dec. 18 by the U.S. State Department.

The report cited Burma, China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam for totalitarian attempts to control religion. Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were listed as practicing state hostility toward minority or non-approved religions.

Indonesia appeared in a section reviewing state neglect of discrimination against, or persecution of, minority or non-approved religions.

However, King said the Indonesian situation is much worse. During a visit to the Southeast Asian nation last fall,



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BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Pastor assassinated

OSLO, Norway (BP) — An investigation has been launched in Tajikistan into the killing of a Baptist pastor in a region known for its devotion to Islam, according to Forum 18 News Service. The head of the Central Asian country's Baptist Union, Aleksander Vervai, told Forum 18 that unknown intruders burst into a churchyard in the northern Tajik town of Isfara and used automatic weapons to shoot Sergei Besarab through a window at 9 p.m. on Jan. 12. At the time he was shot, Besarab was kneeling in prayer, the Baptist Union leader said. When his wife, Tamara, rushed in from another room, the pastor/missionary already was dead. A deputy interior minister, Abdurahim Qahhorov, told the Asia-Plus news agency Jan. 14 that law enforcement agencies were taking measures to find the criminals. Asia-Plus added that a group led by another deputy interior minister, Said Juraqulov, left for Isfara on Jan. 13 to launch an investigation into the case. Ikhbol Teishiev, a correspondent at Isfara television, told Forum 18 from the town on Jan. 14 that local police have refused to comment on Besarab's murder. The pastor's active missionary work — which included distributing Tajik-language evangelistic booklets — had aroused the anger of some local people, Teishiev said. The reporter added that a week before Besarab's death, the local paper Nasimi Isfara had published an article sharply critical of his missionary work. The article also pointed out that Besarab had been imprisoned four times. Rashid Shamsizade, a Baptist pastor in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, readily admitted Besarab's criminal past. "We conduct services in prisons and indeed it was there that we met Besarab," he told Forum 18 on Jan. 14. "After he got to know the Holy Scripture he became a completely different person — he was indeed born again."

Looking back

10 years ago

The Cincinnati Reds baseball organization fails once again in its effort to ban display of "John 3:16" posters. U.S. District Judge Arthur Spiegel declared unconstitutional a 1993 Reds policy excluding the display of any sign in Riverfront Stadium that was not "baseball-related."

20 years ago

Armed thieves rob Southern Baptist missionaries William and Carolyn Smith in Londrina, Brazil, as they returned home. Smith is a native of Amite County. The Smiths lost a portable electronic organ and a small sound system, in addition to their foreign resident documents.

50 years ago

An ad in The Baptist Record offers for sale *A Nun's Life in a Convent*, by Barbara Ubryk. Ad copy reads, "Most horrible revelation of convent cruelty on record. Ubryk locked in a basement dungeon for 21 years in total darkness ... fed on potato peelings, crusts of dry bread and cold water once a day."

BE NOT DECEIVED

For 14 years the man who had more hits in baseball than any other person who ever played the game has told dozens of reporters and the American people that he never bet on baseball. Now, after all of those years and all of those denials, he has published a book saying that he did bet on baseball. Not only did he bet on baseball, but he bet on his own team.

For all of these years he has declared his innocence and charged others with wrong treatment of him. Now, he has come clean, at least in part. There are still controversial areas. He says that he never placed bets from the clubhouse, either by phone or by runner, but two men who say they served as his runners to go and make the bets contradict what he says. Still others declare that he did make phone calls from the clubhouse to bet on baseball.

Although he played the game of baseball with passion and unrestrained joy, he then turned and struck at the heart and the integrity of the game by betting on it and then lying about his actions. He revealed all of this in hopes that he would be reinstated so that he could again be a part of baseball or possibly go ahead and take his place in

the Hall of Fame. When I watched him play baseball, I admired his intensity and hustle and I have, at times, thought he probably ought to be in the Hall of Fame. Now, for me, it does not matter if he is in the Hall of Fame or not, or even if he ever attended another ball game, because all I can feel for him now is pity.

A hundred years from now, whether or not he is in the Hall of Fame, he will still be the object of pity and not because he didn't hit the baseball well, but because he lived life so poorly. He played baseball with a great sense of celebration, but he lived life with a great void of character. Who did he deceive in all of his actions and answers: the powers that be in baseball; the American public; or the young men who played on his teams? Surely, he deceived all of them, but the one most important person that he deceived was himself!

Each day, after every denial, he had to live with it. Each morning he had to get up and look himself in the face and know that he continued to live a lie.

Scripture says in Galatians

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



6:7, "Be not deceived: God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." There are no secret sins. For even those sins that are done with no one else's knowledge, the individual knows and God knows! According to this verse, we reap what we sow. From our forefathers and foremothers on, all of us have at times covered up the reality of our lives. We do not like to get caught.

Several years ago a man was telling me about a trip he was making to Jackson from up in North Mississippi. Early in the morning he was on his way to a meeting to be held in the capital city. He was driving too fast on the interstate highway and the blue lights of the Highway Patrol soon got his attention. Speeding is one thing - compounding the wrong by not having his seat belt buckled was another! So, as the Highway Patrolman came up behind him with his blue lights flashing, the man ever

so deftly but quickly reached back with his left hand, got his seat and shoulder belt strap and pulled it down to buckle it so that the patrolman would not notice.

Pulling over to the side of the road and securely buckled in, he rolled his window down as the patrolman approached his vehicle. Handing the officer his license, he waited to be lectured for his speeding. The officer had something else on his mind. "Sir," he asked, "do you always drive with your seat belt hooked up that way?" The man looked down and saw that he had put his seat belt through the steering wheel as he had pulled it over and buckled it up. What do you say?

From early on it seems as though God puts people in places to help us to know that we cannot do wrong and get by with it. A little boy walked into a room where his mother was visiting with some friends. She had instructed him, "Do not eat any of the pie!" She had baked a chocolate pie and it was sitting on the table in the kitchen. When the little boy walked into the room the mother said to him, "I told you not to eat

any of the pie!" "I didn't!" he replied. The mother said, "I know you did! Now go in there and wash your face and get the chocolate off." He insisted once again, "I did not eat any pie!" The mother simply got up, walked over and picked up a mirror, stepped in front of her little son and held the mirror up so he could see his face. Without arguing, he turned and walked away to go and wash his face!

James tells us that the Word of God is like a mirror. It shows us inside where no one sees and outside where no one knows. The Word of God reveals our sinful decisions, our warped motives, and our sinful ambitions. While we may argue with some folks and while we may deceive others, we cannot deceive God and are foolish to deceive ourselves. But, therein is one of the marvels of the Gospel at work in our lives: "When we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). What a promise and what a blessing! We can be cleansed, renewed, relieved, and blessed.

While all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, all can be forgiven and made new by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST EVANGELISTS

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Don Taylor, Vice-President (601) 635-3695

Steve & Becky Carver, Secretary/Treasurer (662) 263-8345

Dear Mississippi Baptist,

Greetings to you in the name of our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I sincerely hope that you are doing well in His care, and that you are making plans to attend this year's Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference at the Country Woods Baptist Church in Byram.

As I prepare to celebrate seven years of traveling from place to place with the marvelous gospel of grace as a vocational evangelist, I am also closing three years of service as an officer to the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists (COMBE). Over these years of serving Mississippi evangelists, I have heard some of our senior members share with us that less than ten percent of Mississippi Baptist churches will secure a God-called evangelist in any given year. Throughout my time as serving as a COMBE officer, I have constantly sent letters of encouragement to our members, reminding them of our awesome Savior and His faithfulness. The men and women of our fellowship represent all who have been called to this biblical office as described in Ephesians 4:11-12, and have committed themselves to practical ministry and personal integrity.

You can also be one who encourages the men and women who have stepped out into this vein of service. I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider scheduling a Mississippi music evangelist to come to your community and bless your church through heart-stirring praise, or a preaching evangelist to exalt Jesus through His eternal word. Listed to the right are those who were actively involved in our fellowship during the previous year, along with their phone numbers. My prayer is that you will intercede for us all, and will call us for the opportunity to present Jesus within the borders of the beautiful magnolia state.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Smith, Jr.
President, COMBE

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- Steve Walker - (601) 847-4375
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

House Tops.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 22, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"The joy of prayer is simply the joy that springs from the sense of His presence. It is Christ Himself who gives us this joy which no man can take from us."

"The Quiet Time" by Dr. J.D.C. Anderson

For: (1) Baptist Men's Day (MM Emphasis); (2) Wayne Vann is a MSC missionary in the Greater Detroit Association/Special Projects Coordinator. His family was burned out of their home in the fall and lost everything. Pray for God's wisdom, direction, and funding in rebuilding their home.

For: (1) Bi-vocational Ministers/Ministers' Wives Supper, Country Woods BC, Jackson (P/LD); (2) State Evangelism Conference, County Woods BC, Jackson, 1:30 p.m., 26th - 4 p.m., 27th (Evan); (3) Women's Track Evangelism Conference, Country Woods BC, Jackson, 26th-27th (WMU).

For: (1) True Love Waits (D&FM); (2) Pray for the 20 Iraqi students who are now believers. They are presently seeking ways to lead others to Christ. Pray that they will be encouraged and strengthened in the faith and that God would give countless opportunities to share His love with those around them.

Missionary Miriam Nunez asks for your prayers as she starts a new ministry with women in Lima, Peru. Professional families are very hard to reach because they have more money and they think they can take care of all of their families' needs without God. Pray that this ministry to women will help the family members see that they do need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Isaan Team of Thailand writes: "In December, we were all excited about the new Christians in Isaan's Nong Luup village, but now it appears that some of those believers are turning their backs on the Lord. Pray that God would protect them from the evil one."

George Buddy Hammill is an active duty Army chaplain for an attack helicopter battalion stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga. Pray as he ministers to the soldiers and their families specifically for strength during increased deployment and separation.

Some pastors and lay leaders in Venezuela, who often lack a clear understanding of their faith, are now being trained. Pray that Guajibo people in villages with these pastors and lay leaders will see a change in their hearts, hear God's voice, and come to a saving knowledge of Christ as Lord and Savior.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS; (2) Over 200 barrios of the urban poor are scattered throughout Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Please pray that the chains that hold so many bound to sin will be broken. Also pray that the men will receive Christ, and stand up to be leaders in their families and their neighborhoods.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Fairview BC, Columbus; William Carey College, Hattiesburg; FBC, Laurel; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; Highland BC, Meridian; FBC, Kosciusko; FBC, Clinton (CM); (2) Supervised Training Conference, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, noon, 29th-8 p.m., 30th (P/LD).

For: (1) MBREA Convention, Ridgecrest BC, Madison; (2) "Do you have some soul medicine?" the lady asked a veteran missionary serving at the mobile clinic pharmacy table in Paraguay. She said she had learned about the church, but wanted to have a Bible. Her prescription was filled with a smile. Pray for this woman to accept Christ as Savior.

Recently training was offered for former Muslims who had experienced a change of heart and had become followers of Jesus Christ. Four of these believers were unable to attend because they had been severely beaten the week before and were in the hospital. Three women who were trained are leading 3,000 Muslim women who are now believers. Praise God for these believers.

A Haitian pastor took a second mortgage on his home to close on a church building for his congregation. Another Haitian church of about 2,000 has no paid staff and encourages members to find their place of service and equip them for their assignment! Pray for this pastor and these church members who are "denying themselves" to follow Jesus.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals, 9:30 am - noon – Emmanuel BC, Grenada; North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; Alta Woods BC, Jackson (CM); (2) January is a hot summer month in Chile, South America. Pray for beach ministries taking place there.

All
The
World
Is A
Stage ...



conferences

- Drama
- Clowning
- Puppets
- Church
- Recreation
- Youth Ministry
- Media
- Missions

Cost: \$25 (early bird by Jan. 23), \$30 (after Jan. 23). Leader of groups of 10 or more get in free. Registrations postmarked by Jan. 31 will be sent a list of classes to help you plan your schedule.

If you have any questions about the festival, please contact Harvey Ellis at 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail him at hgellis@mbcb.org.

CHRISTIAN PERFORMING

ARTS FESTIVAL

February 20-21
FBC, Madison

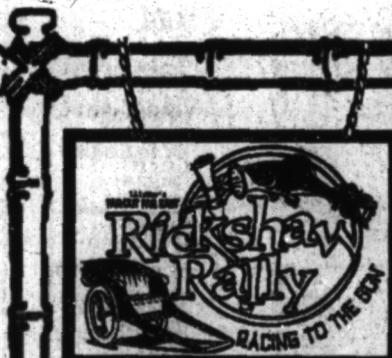
ATTENTION
LOCATION
CHANGE
Area 8
KEYBOARD
FESTIVAL
Hattiesburg

Moved from William Carey College to:

FBC
HATTIESBURG
510 Pine Street

Contact: Kathy Vail
at church: 601-544-0100

THURSDAY
JANUARY 29, 2004
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



VBS
JumpStart
2004

For all • Pastors • VBS directors • VBS leaders

I Corinthians 9:24

Join Becky Martin from LifeWay on an unbelievable far-out VBS race through the streets of Tokyo or climbing Mt. Fuji to obtain the real prize – Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The VBS Rickshaw Rally sampler and curriculum will be on display and available for purchase from LifeWay Christian Stores.

February 9, 2004
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
FBC, 506 Jeff Davis Ave.
Long Beach, Miss.

February 10, 2004
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Trinity BC, 7200 Swinnea Rd.
Southaven, Miss.

February 10, 2004
9 a.m. - noon
Ridgecrest BC

7469 Old Canton Rd.
Madison, Miss.

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 601-292-3292, or E-mail jellis@mbcb.org.

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003. An "*" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
ADAMS				PEASANT GROVE	491.91	1,129.68	1,621.59	HOPEWELL	3,434.06	3,675.00	7,109.06
CALVARY	1,385.13	4,189.71	5,574.84	PEASANT BRIDGE	10,472.82	12,182.42	22,655.24	LUCIEN CREEK	5,446.73	3,454.35	8,861.08
CLIFF TEMPLE	1,567.52	2,683.44	4,250.95	POINTER SPRINGS	1,817.92	3,929.96	5,747.88	MEADVILLE	936.00	500.00	1,436.00
CRANFIELD	1,701.84	2,087.61	3,789.45	ROCKY BRANCH	1,575.02	2,624.06	4,199.08	MT ZION	32,930.64	16,186.51	48,117.15
FBC NATCHEZ	102,214.73	90,274.75	198,489.48	ROCKY MOUNT	2,517.65	1,625.40	4,143.05	NEW HOPE	4,798.49	1,308.00	6,106.49
HIGHLAND	15,560.05	16,547.64	32,107.69	SAROGLA	10,063.80	7,423.33	18,287.13	NEW SALEM	3,956.29	3,155.00	6,911.29
IMMANUEL	15,764.37	9,094.06	24,158.43	SAREPTA	994.12	1,758.18	2,752.30	O'ZION	1,815.64	729.67	2,545.31
MORGANTOWN	22,262.55	8,344.68	30,607.23	SHILOH	1,651.42	20,073.00	21,724.42	PEASANT VALLEY	495.72	1,268.07	1,763.39
NEW HOPE	60,735.35	458.21	61,193.56	SPRING HILL	2,282.61	1,869.93	4,152.54	PROVIDENCE	6,753.76	4,684.64	11,430.40
PARKWAY	68,244.45	33,654.11	122,178.56	TURKEY CREEK	285.61	1,302.80	1,588.41	SAWAH	2,245.69	1,250.00	3,525.69
SPRINGFIELD	1,939.20	2,258.80	6,196.00	WESTSIDE	2,632.30	996.76	3,629.06	SOME	7,025.23	8,633.00	15,658.23
STANTON	12,174.22	12,739.29	27,533.51	TOTAL	323,347.78	263,563.69	586,913.47	SAREPTA	51.94	1,405.00	1,456.94
WASHINGTON	12,456.81	9,621.45	21,078.26					SPRINGHILL	51.94	1,405.00	1,456.94
								TOTAL	123,905.57	68,107.12	192,012.59
ALCORN				CARROLL				GEORGE			
ANTIOCH	4,389.55	8,057.79	12,447.34	BLACK HAWK	1,110.61	1,310.74	2,429.35	*ASSOCIATION	0.00	11,515.00	11,515.00
BETHLEHEM	1,855.84	1,958.62	3,814.46	CALVARY	4,463.97	4,068.14	8,532.11	AGRICOLA	32,312.96	15,357.23	47,669.19
BETHLEHEM	1,855.84	1,958.62	3,814.46	CARROLTON	54,200.00	26,000.00	80,200.00	BARTON	40,020.80	15,204.09	55,224.89
CALVARY	1,701.84	2,087.61	3,789.45	ENTERVILLE	1,700.00	1,615.00	3,315.00	BEXLEY	600.00	1,200.00	1,800.00
CRANFIELD	1,701.84	2,087.61	3,789.45	COLA	634.00	1,384.00	2,018.00	BELLEVILLE	634.43	41,641.46	101,210.99
FBC NATCHEZ	102,214.73	90,274.75	198,489.48	FRANCIS GROVE	656.76	656.86	1,313.62	BELMONT	5,596.53	2,750.22	8,346.75
HIGHLAND	15,560.05	16,547.64	32,107.69	FRANCIS GROVE	1,060.47	2,109.76	3,170.23	BELMONT	14,037.34	14,037.34	14,037.34
IMMANUEL	15,764.37	9,094.06	24,158.43	FRANCIS GROVE	6,135.27	7,018.87	14,037.34	BELMONT	1,491.51	2,325.94	3,817.45
MORGANTOWN	22,262.55	8,344.68	30,607.23	FRANCIS GROVE	6,185.29	5,815.43	9,500.72	BELMONT	1,491.51	2,325.94	3,817.45
NEW HOPE	60,735.35	458.21	61,193.56	FRANCIS GROVE	1,703.34	2,240.66	6,034.00	BELMONT	6,066.62	4,605.08	10,671.70
PARKWAY	68,244.45	33,654.11	122,178.56	FRANCIS GROVE	11,135.66	8,544.58	19,680.27	BELMONT	1,491.51	2,325.94	3,817.45
SPRINGFIELD	1,939.20	2,258.80	6,196.00	FRANCIS GROVE	14,781.21	27,455.00	42,236.25	BELMONT	57,489.00	42,106.00	99,595.00
STANTON	12,174.22	12,739.29	27,533.51	FRANCIS GROVE	1,703.34	5,913.73	12,440.10	BELMONT	4,784.67	10,162.29	14,946.87
WASHINGTON	12,456.81	9,621.45	21,078.26	FRANCIS GROVE	31,761.71	1,964.00	4,978.88	BELMONT	1,389.47	1,389.47	1,389.47
				FRANCIS GROVE	2,282.61	2,695.86	5,646.47	BELMONT	231,256.20	174,807.71	406,063.91
				TOTAL	164,221.34	142,296.23	306,519.57				
CHICKASAW				CARROLL				GOLDEN TRIANGLE			
AMITY				BLACK HAWK	2,121.10	3,057.75	5,178.85	ADATON	57,089.35	20,806.41	77,895.76
ARBOR GROVE				BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
BETHESDA				BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
BETHANY	7,151.84	1,958.62	9,110.46	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
CALVARY	1,701.84	2,087.61	3,789.45	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
COUNTRY LINE	1,700.00	4,973.00	5,673.00	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
DANVILLE	1,700.00	4,973.00	5,673.00	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
EAST CORINTH	10,106.43	4,973.00	14,049.43	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
EPIC BIGGERSVILLE	2,502.79	4,973.00	7,475.79	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
EPIC CORINTH	175,469.71	5,924.65	233,394.36	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
GLENDALE	6,711.51	9,126.93	15,838.44	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
HINKLE	6,754.39	1,588.79	10,312.89	BLACK HAWK	3,652.80	1,700.08	5,352.97	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
HOLLY	7,195.98	12,553.78	22,749.76	BLACK HAWK	14,101.03	19,541.52	33,642.55	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
JACINTO	1,828.16	4,445.00	5,273.16	BLACK HAWK	2,316.00	3,896.00	6,214.00	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
KEMPS CHAPEL	2,614.33	2,119.83	4,734.16	BLACK HAWK	900.00	742.00	1,642.00	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
KENDRICK	1,318.16	2,579.01	3,897.17	BLACK HAWK	3,427.59	6,761.12	10,220.59	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
KOSULL FIRST	4,753.81	2,783.16	7,536.97	BLACK HAWK	3,427.59	6,761.12	10,220.59	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
LIBERTY HILL	1,701.84	1,813.70	3,525.54	BLACK HAWK	3,427.59	6,761.12	10,220.59	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
LONE OAK	6,645.00	3,468.00	10,113.00	BLACK HAWK	3,427.59	6,761.12	10,220.59	ADATON	1,100.00	7,074.37	18,044.37
LOVE JOY	1,307.37	2,188.95	3,526.32	BLACK HAWK	3,427.59	6,761.12					

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL	
FAITH	1,580.29	466.70	2,046.99	TEMPLE PETAL	25.00	.00	25.00	LONE PINE	402.05	.00	402.05	FELLOWSHIP	165.44	249.73	416.17	
FC ABBEVILLE	30,367.32	29,838.19	60,205.51	THIRTY EIGHTH AVE	32,558.87	32,588.68	65,147.55	LILA	300.00	300.00	600.00	GOOD HOPE	5,249.50	11,262.61	16,511.71	
FC BAXTER	123,230.50	69,064.19	192,314.69	TRINITY	654.54	828.18	1,482.72	MCDOWELL ROAD	19,968.62	9,327.74	29,216.36	GRACE	18,113.70	20,032.60	38,146.30	
FC BENTON	15,737.71	10,211.17	25,948.88	UNIVERSITY	2,106.80	26,952.30	29,059.10	MIDWAY	18,279.37	6,424.34	24,703.37	HERBERT	2,724.34	6,902.00	9,626.38	
NEW ETHEL	3,771.61	5,332.96	9,104.57	WEST POINT	1,250.00	.00	1,250.00	MORRISON HTS	296,988.49	116,406.24	413,396.73	HIGH HILL	1,580.94	2,578.09	6,178.05	
NEW FORT	987.88	1,532.89	2,150.77	TOTAL	1,051,597.85	708,518.28	1,760,116.13	NEW HAVEN	894.32	444.18	1,338.50	HOPE	1,656.07	2,097.75	6,178.05	
NORTH OXFORD	18,010.93	1,545.76	20,555.49	LEE	AUBURN	40,450.45	11,091.96	51,542.41	NORTHMINSTER	468.25	57,115.00	57,583.25	LAUREL HILL	1,191.43	2,181.09	6,473.58
OLD UNION	17,111.99	88,704.00	259,815.00	BARNES CROSSING	935.86	285.25	1,220.11	OLD FERRY ROAD	570.73	10,470.02	11,040.75	LONGNO	1,191.43	2,181.09	6,473.58	
PARS	2,704.00	5,071.00	7,775.00	BEDEN	70,648.07	20,375.55	91,023.62	NEW LIFE FSHIP	55.00	145.00	200.00	MT NELSON	6,659.00	2,219.00	9,878.00	
PHILADELPHIA	2,060.00	7,458.00	9,518.00	BETHANY	50.00	350.00	400.00	OLD FERRY ROAD	21,660.58	62,535.06	82,535.06	MT CARMEL	1,280.00	2,219.00	3,599.00	
S BLOOM	9,754.83	2,407.94	12,162.77	BESSEL	5,691.48	5,931.11	11,622.59	OLD VICKSBURG RD	705.98	3,700.54	6,095.52	NESHAMA	17,054.76	14,033.39	31,088.15	
TAYLOR	3,951.65	3,646.02	7,595.67	BREWER	2,381.80	8,961.47	11,342.87	PARKHILL	4,519.84	8,159.76	12,679.60	NEW BETHEL	3,724.84	5,226.93	11,032.77	
TEMPLE HEIGHTS	280.00	80.00	360.00	CALVARY	374,179.97	124,527.47	498,932.44	PARKWAY	98,083.26	88,706.30	186,789.54	NEW BETHYL	1,170.00	2,028.00	3,198.00	
TRINITY	4,863.68	4,745.84	9,609.52	CAMP CREEK	18,400.67	5,023.37	23,424.39	POCAHONTAS	17,947.08	6,664.00	24,611.08	NEW BIRMINGHAM	1,170.00	2,028.00	3,198.00	
UNION WEST	5,918.26	5,518.78	11,437.04	CHESTERVILLE	2,481.11	4,274.66	6,468.77	RAYMOND ROAD	43,565.30	22,593.92	66,159.22	NEW PLEASANTDALE	1,170.00	2,028.00	3,198.00	
WHITE LEAF	10,048.74	23,953.98	34,043.72	DOTY CHAPEL	6,697.37	6,714.20	13,111.60	RIDGECREST	202,872.46	27,748.76	230,621.22	NORTH CALVARY	1,170.00	2,028.00	3,198.00	
TOTAL	495,843.06	321,651.98	817,495.04	EAST FREIGHTS	4,239.52	29,758.00	77,708.40	RIVERCREST FSHIP	150.00	50.00	200.00	OLD PEARL VALLEY	1,086.03	15,819.43	25,005.46	
LAMAR	AUTUMN RIDGE	600.00	2,430.00	3,030.00	EAST MT UNION	7,737.03	6,225.00	13,962.68	SALEM	10,401.00	6,021.00	16,422.00	PINE GROVE	9,918.00	17,740.43	27,717.00
BAXTERVILLE	4,341.82	2,749.45	7,081.27	FRUITLAND	1,197.03	19,193.42	21,290.45	SIMMONS MEMORIAL	1,148.03	1,148.04	2,296.07	SALEM	2,776.48	2,471.48	5,247.96	
BELLEVUE	13,940.73	5,527.42	19,467.14	FRUITLAND	10,715.00	21,913.42	32,628.61	SOUTHERN HILLS	2,160.00	1,440.00	3,500.00	SAND HILL	1,171.20	2,024.42	3,195.62	
CALVARY	25,446.03	26,045.60	51,488.63	FRUITLAND	26,163.99	9,128.81	35,085.80	TRACE RIDGE	5,500.00	1,540.57	7,040.57	SARDIS	2,009.22	3,463.69	5,472.91	
COALTOWN	1,968.74	3,744.09	4,712.83	FRUITLAND	20,156.95	15,181.51	35,934.51	TWIN LAKES	2,773.24	1,420.00	4,197.24	SPRING CREEK	17,093.01	14,996.39	32,089.40	
CORINTH	6,041.61	7,616.38	13,657.99	FRUITLAND	68,266.09	20,472.26	88,738.35	UTICA	28,631.00	1,792.54	30,423.54	TRINITY	5,593.35	13,339.49	19,922.84	
FBC LUMBERTON	10,743.69	22,896.40	33,640.09	FRC SHANNON	1,259.44	4,129.20	19,568.77	WESTVIEW	7,200.00	1,559.00	12,759.00	WEST PHILADELPHIA	1,000.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	
FBC COLO	26,537.83	7,571.87	33,909.40	FRC TULPEO	155,000.00	109,513.50	264,513.50	WILDFOOD	22,724.57	30,304.86	52,579.43	WHITE OAK	3,325.00	3,325.00	6,650.00	
FBC PURVIS	96,380.83	31,313.06	127,694.69	FRC VERONA	27,943.00	15,914.88	43,858.00	WOODLAND HILLS	29,915.00	32,485.03	62,400.43	TOTAL	237,482.24	318,990.45	576,478.69	
FBC SUMBALL	65,451.77	45,905.97	111,357.74	FRC WILSON	1,250.00	1,560.00	3,810.00	WYNNDALE	80,697.34	14,947.80	95,645.14					
GOLD COPE	225.00	275.00	500.00	FRC YANDELL	2,016.10	.00	2,016.10	TOTAL	3,653,929.00	2,006,367.11	5,660,296.11					
GREENVILLE	6,897.26	3,767.79	10,665.05													
HICKORY GROVE	3,246.74	1,408.00	4,654.74													
IMMANUEL	38,226.21	17,442.80	55,668.01													
MILITARY	1,201.94	1,981.00	5,082.94													
OKAHOLA	1,312.86	1,312.86	2,625.72													
ORAL	8,044.80	2,782.00	10,827.55													
RICHBURG	10,612.32	5,438.10	13,050.42													
TOTAL	327,221.68	186,167.34	513,389.02													
LAUDERDALE	ARKADELPHIA	9,849.00	6,681.00	16,530.00												
ARROWOOD	750.00	2,711.00	3,461.00													
ARTIANI	4,441.92	4,441.92	8,883.84													
BRAMWOOD	16,674.32	4,780.67	21,454.99													
CALVARY	1,250.00	1,250.00	2,500.00													
CARMEL	9,231.07	1,231.07	10,462.14													
CAUSEYVILLE	1,576.24	2,077.61	3,653.85													
CENTER GROVE	2,042.74	9,071.34	11,113.08													
EIGHTH AVENUE	5,945.74	6,461.94	12,407.68													
FC COLLINSVILLE	11,323.53	38,636.75	150,159.30													
FC LAUDERDALE	15,669.68	8,684.06	24,354.54													

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL	
WYATTE TOTAL	7,108.84	13,313.45	20,422.29		CALVARY	7,338.34	4,289.25	11,627.59	CORINTH	1,760.00	.00	1,760.00	CHARITY	892.27	180.05	1,072.32
NOXUBEE	1,366,174.49	607,290.23	1,973,464.72		CANDLERS CHAPEL	2,001.77	3,371.39	5,373.16	EASTSIDE	.00	.00	.00	CLEAR CREEK	2,636.14	3,099.14	5,735.28
"ASSOCIATION	.00	450.00	450.00		CASEY CREEK	1,614.58	2,431.92	4,046.50	FBC MIZE	10,392.28	8,141.77	18,534.05	COUNTY LINE	2,487.50	3,079.50	5,567.00
BROOKSVILLE	11,029.44	7,379.52	18,408.96		CRESTWOOD	3,667.23	2,866.80	6,534.03	FBC RALEIGH	47,969.17	42,059.62	90,028.79	COYT	2,059.00	1,255.18	3,344.00
CALVARY MACON	1,200.00	475.00	1,675.00		EAST BOONEVILLE	66,978.96	34,363.66	101,342.62	FELLOWSHIP	5,144.78	2,935.68	8,710.44	CROSSROAD	1,741.18	1,750.18	3,488.36
CONCORD	900.00	1,975.00	2,875.00		EAST MARIETTA	3,037.76	1,238.00	4,335.76	GODFATHER	770.00	861.00	1,631.00	ENET	450.00	225.00	690.00
DEERBROOK	2,754.00	1,000.00	3,754.00		EAST PLEASANT RIDGE	1,943.60	3,540.73	5,484.33	HARVEST	2,528.55	3,198.49	5,726.94	ERUTTA	5,553.24	5,553.24	12,336.71
FBC MACON	25,886.47	16,708.52	42,594.99		EAST PRENTISS	6,411.00	4,488.95	10,200.95	HIGH HILL	570.00	.00	.00	EVERGREEN	6,581.47	4,775.38	8,912.97
MASHULAVILLE	1,936.36	1,352.00	3,288.36		FAIRVIEW	6,286.23	6,028.23	12,314.46	LEAF RIVER	3,593.59	4,869.05	8,461.64	FBC BUCKATUNNA	4,137.59	9,212.94	13,371.93
RUHAMA	.00	500.00	500.00		FBC BOONEVILLE	6,517.77	62,903.22	128,415.99	LIBERTY	4,405.00	4,800.00	9,205.00	FBC CHICORA	9,212.94	9,771.68	18,984.62
SHUOJALAK	2,750.00	6,382.00	9,132.00		FBC LUMBERTOWN	1,000.00	291.00	1,291.00	MT CARMEL	2,771.00	1,738.00	4,509.00	FBC CLARA	38,458.81	8,441.00	46,899.81
VERNON	577.20	1,000.00	1,577.20		FESTIVAL	33,812.17	41,366.13	75,178.30	MT PLEASANT	1,815.15	1,309.41	3,124.56	FBC STATE LINE	12,258.96	11,024.91	23,283.87
WEST SIDE	625.00	300.00	825.00		FESTIVAL	723.07	361.55	1,084.62	MT ZION	600.00	5,015.99	5,615.99	FBC WAYNESBORO	45,446.48	34,878.46	80,324.94
TOTAL	47,858.67	36,222.07	84,080.74		FESTIVAL	10,796.83	16,160.03	28,084.72	NEW HOME	3,999.96	9,565.39	13,565.35	LIBERTY	48,359.78	12,367.79	60,727.57
PANOLA					FESTIVAL	19,164.75	24,249.47	47,249.47	NEW SARDIS	4,176.60	3,151.59	7,692.19	MT ZION	6,161.34	7,772.67	13,934.01
CALVARY	45,791.87	9,503.94	55,295.81		FESTIVAL	2,000.00	10,100.00	12,100.00	OAK GROVE	7,052.19	11,592.19	18,644.38	PLEASANT GROVE	37,276.17	8,313.28	45,589.45
COMO	4,335.12	3,410.71	7,745.83		FESTIVAL	7,104.90	14,733.21	21,838.11	ROCKY HILL	725.79	50.94	776.73	RIVERSIDE	3,602.91	1,117.00	4,719.91
COURTLAND	7,024.00	3,935.00	10,959.00		FESTIVAL	2,783.15	4,383.15	7,166.30	ROSE HILL	979.08	.00	979.08	STRENGTHFORD	977.02	237.00	1,214.02
CRENSHAW	7,176.00	4,409.02	11,585.02		FESTIVAL	300.00	380.00	680.00	SALEM	501.83	2,013.32	2,515.15	WATER OAK	9,907.20	8,917.94	18,825.14
ENID LAKE	2,265.37	260.00	2,525.37		FESTIVAL	4,438.71	8,448.23	12,886.94	SARDIS	2,615.62	3,694.19	6,309.81	WEST SHADY GROVE	4,689.28	4,002.98	8,693.26
ENON	4,732.00	600.00	5,332.00		FESTIVAL	217.00	347.00	564.00	SHADY GROVE	.00	269.00	269.00	ZION REST	1,251.76	1,251.76	2,503.51
FBC BATESVILLE	166,336.15	40,655.00	206,991.16		FESTIVAL	2,000.00	10,100.00	12,100.00	SYLVARINA	25,523.38	38,621.52	64,144.90	TOTAL	321,306.57	167,565.31	488,872.08
FBC SARDIS	40,845.46	33,313.23	74,158.69		FESTIVAL	6,643.12	18,197.22	24,882.99	WHEELER	8,772.13	13,763.52	22,535.64				
FIRST HOPE	1,802.19	1,039.67	2,841.86		FESTIVAL	248,358.34	251,538.50	500,096.84	WILKINSON MEM	1,700.00	1,500.00	3,200.00				
RANKIN					FESTIVAL	200,569.57	222,353.74	423,304.71	TOTAL	200,569.57	222,353.74	423,304.71				
"ASSOCIATION	.00	400.00	400.00		FESTIVAL	11,168.09	21,188.09	32,356.98								
BETHEL	17,947.14	9,469.61	27,416.75		FESTIVAL	8,050.05	3,430.17	4,235.22								
CENTRAL	14,564.53	10,451.14	24,915.67		FESTIVAL	17,450.80	8,618.46	26,069.26								
CORINTH	2,500.61	624.95	3,124.56		FESTIVAL	1,471.57	2,134.88	3,606.55								
CRANE CREEK	1,200.00	1,200.00	2,400.00		FESTIVAL	1,993.26	1,257.38	3,250.64								
DERBY	3,747.34	2,415.37	6,162.71		FESTIVAL	9,237.40	6,883.13	16,120.53								
ELIJAH CHILL	9,947.00	4,879.07	12,826.00		FESTIVAL	9,035.07	32,799.38	125,853.45								
LOCKE STATION	7,955.27	2,980.00	10,935.27		FESTIVAL	2,039.15	4,295.20	34,768.65								
MCIVOR	7,888.81	500.00	8,388.81		FESTIVAL	1,647.85	1,021.33	2,669.18								
PEACH CREEK	4,709.85	6,531.00	11,240.85		FESTIVAL	1,964.43	1,964.43	3,928.86								
PILGRIMS REST	5,520.54	3,175.00	8,695.54		FESTIVAL	1,705.20	1,705.20	3,410.40								
POPE	13,145.00	5,540.00	18,685.00		FESTIVAL	1,653.00	1,653.00	3,306.00								
ROSE HILL	77.34	0.00	77.34		FESTIVAL	11,459.09	4,207.22	15,666.31								
SARDIS LAKE	5,200.00	6,652.92	11,852.92		FESTIVAL	2,000.00	1,200.00	3,200.00								
TOCOWA	2,679.24	1,164.00	3,843.24		FESTIVAL	1,098.02	1,098.02	2,196.04								
UNION	4,215.51	2,415.00	6,630.51		FESTIVAL	1,098.02	1,098.02	2,196.04								
WEST BATESVILLE	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00		FESTIVAL	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00								

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Crane Creek Church, Perkinston, announces that Randy Shaw was licensed to preach on December 28. Pictured (from left) are Paul Haniel, Tate Cockrell, interim pastor, Tommy Shaw, Shaw, Doug Stewart, and Milton Polk.

The Institute in Basic Life Principles will present their life changing Basic Seminar March 1-6 at Bayou Talla Fellowship Church, Kiln. The Seminar defines and illustrates seven universal, non-optional principles that affect every area of life and every relationship. To register or for more information, call (228) 255-1118.

First Church, Madison, is offering a Financial Peace University Introductory Class, Room 220 at 2100 Main Street, Madison, on January 25 at 5 p.m. or 21 at 7 p.m. Classes begin in February meeting 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays or 4:15

p.m.-6:15 p.m. on Sundays. Call (601) 856-6177 for more information.

Sherilyn Jones will celebrate her fifteenth year as pianist at Castlewoods Church, Brandon. Jones will present a concert at 6 p.m. on January 25 with a reception to follow. All are welcome.

Union Church, Union Church, will hold Bible study on 1 and 2 Timothy February 1-4. Times are Sunday at 11 a.m. and Monday-Wednesday at 7 p.m. Gilbert Allan, Pine Grove Church, Union, will be the guest speaker. Ben Presnell is pastor.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will show videos, The Secret World of Mormonism, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. and, The Witness at Your Door, on February 6. Teaching of The Doctrine of

Jesus Christ will be held February 1-29 at 6 p.m. A Valentine's Banquet will be held February 15 at 5 p.m. Jim Kultau is pastor.

Clear Creek Church, Oxford, ordained Stephen Redding as a deacon on December 14. Bobby Redding, his father, delivered the charge. Charles Lipe is pastor. Pictured is Deacon chairman Sam Waller (left) presenting Redding with his certificate.

First Church, Verona, recently ordained Jerry Lentz as a deacon. Pictured are two father and son deacon teams, (from left) are Jason Harris, Ken Harris, Lentz, and Scott Lentz.

Northside Church, Clinton, will host Kyle Matthews in concert January 25 at 6 p.m. Matthews is a veteran singer and songwriter. He began his ministry doing

concerts and retreats for youth and college, but adults and children are also welcome at the concert.

Northcrest Church, Meridian, announces a weekly support group of Overcomers Outreach on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. beginning January 26. Roger

Carlisle will be facilitating this group. All are welcome.

McDowell Road, Jackson: 50th Anniversary April 25; if you were ever part of this church, call (601) 327-1594 or (601) 327-9258 and leave your name and address so information can be sent to you.



Jason Harris, Ken Harris, Jerry Lentz, and Scott Lentz



Haniel, Cockrell, interim pastor; T. Shaw, R. Shaw, Stewart, and Polk



Waller, Redding

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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Mississippi College Career Services Center will hold Career Day February 3 in A.E. Wood Coliseum, Clinton, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. All MC students and alumni are invited to attend. The academic departments will join Career Day by holding a majors fair section which will help underclassmen decide on majors and see firsthand the potential employers for their field of interest. For more information, call (601) 925-3901, email at nyberg@mc.edu, or visit the website at <http://www.mc.edu/career> for information.

The movie Grease at the Beverly Drive-In, Hattiesburg, January 22 at 5:30 p.m. will kick off William Carey College's Homecoming celebration. Rock Around The Clock is this year's theme. Admission to the drive-in is \$10 including food. Tickets will be available at drive-in or they can be purchased in advance by calling (601) 318-6218. Events scheduled for January 23 include guided campus tours, fellowship time at the Common Grounds coffee house, and a hamburger supper at 5:30 p.m. An athletic reunion will be held at Mack's Catfish House at 6:30 p.m. Mississippi Woman's College reunion begins the events on January 24 at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Legacy of Lucile Parker art exhibit in the Lucile Parker Gallery at 9:30 a.m. The Student Government Association will present a program, Carey Reflections, at 10:45 a.m. followed by the awards luncheon at noon in the Wilkes Dining Hall. A Language and Literature Reunion, Education Reunion, and a Lady and Men's Crusader Basketball game against Belhaven College are scheduled. A School of Business Alumni Cookout is scheduled for 6 p.m. For tickets call (601) 318-6167, 1-800-962-5991, ext. 218, or email alumrela@wmcarey.edu for more information.

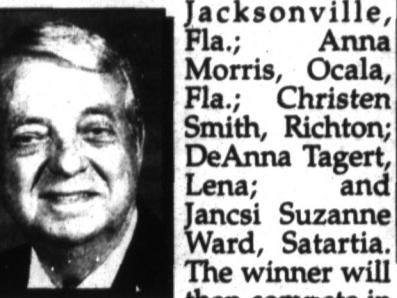
Judge Louis Guirola, Jr., U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, will receive the William Carey College Distinguished Alumnus Award at Homecoming ceremonies held on the Hattiesburg campus January 24. Guirola is a 1973 graduate of WCC with a degree in social science.



Lafayette, Ind.; Ashley Anne Henderson, Petal; Jennifer Marie McCumber,

Gregory Moore, vice president-secretary for Moore Funeral Homes, Inc. of Hattiesburg, will receive a Service Award at WCC homecoming ceremonies January 24 at an awards luncheon held to honor alumni who contribute to their communities. Moore is a 1979 graduate with a bachelor of science degree in physical education. He was a member of the all-conference baseball team.

Wheat is a 1958 graduate with a bachelor of science degree and he played on the Crusader basketball and baseball team. He currently serves on the WCC Board of Trustees.



Wheat the Miss Mississippi Pageant held in Vicksburg in June. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased at the door. Call (601) 318-6107 for more information.

William Carey College alumni from the classes 1964, 74, 84, and 94 and the Mississippi

Women's College classes of 1911 through 1954 will meet during Homecoming celebrations at a breakfast January 24 at 8:30 a.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Departmental reunions will be held at 2 p.m. followed by the School of Business

reunion cookout at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 318-107 or 1-800-962-5991, ext. 107.

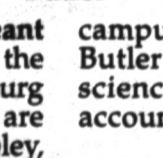
Melanie Ward Butler, originally from Columbia, a partner in the London Forensic Services Practice of Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP in England, will receive the WCC Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year Award at homecoming ceremonies held on the Hattiesburg

campus January 23 and 24. Butler received a bachelor of science business degree in accounting in 1989.



Butler

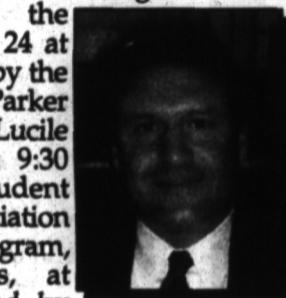
Mississippi 2003 Allison Kellogg, WDAM-TV sports anchor Scott Cody, and Hattiesburg Miss Hospitality Melissa Thames will co-host **William Carey** College's **Miss Carey Pageant** January 23 at 7 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium, Hattiesburg campus. The contestants are Stephanie Rachelle Crumbley,



Butler

Thames

Crumbley



Moore

Crumbley

www.mbcc.org

Crumbley

Thames

Moore

Reynolds

Wheat

Ward

Butler

Crumbley

Thames

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

God Works in His Time

1 Samuel 26:1-25

By Ken Anderson

In March of 2001, a little Jewish girl was killed in the tit-for-tat fighting in Hebron on the West Bank while she sat in her stroller. On a wall near where she died, there is a poem in her memory. The poem reads, "We will take revenge, we will scream for revenge in body and spirit and await the coming of the Messiah." (Chicago Tribune, 4-04-01) Revenge does have a healthy practice in our world. This week's lesson shows how believers can reject revenge by trusting God's authority.

I SAMUEL 26:1-3:

The initial verses of chapter twenty-six set the background for the final meeting between King Saul and David. Saul, out of jealousy of David and fear for his dynasty, assembled a formidable military force to find and



Anderson

kill David. The residents of Ziph, out of fear of Saul and perhaps to secure his favor, informed Saul of David's location. David camped in the hills of Hachilah, six miles east of Ziph and before the wilderness of Judah (Jeshimon).

I SAMUEL 26:4-12:

David's spies made their reconnaissance of the area and reported Saul's location. Abishai volunteered to accompany David on a special night operation into Saul's camp. With the help of God's anesthetic inducing sleep on Saul and his army (vs. 12), they succeeded in penetrating the camp and locating Saul. Abishai recognized this as an opportunity to end Saul's reign by killing him with his own spear, but David refused Abishai's suggestion. He did not agree with Saul; nevertheless, he

was God's appointed king. David would leave it to God to work out the details of Saul's demise. He suggested to Abishai that God could strike Saul with an untimely death, such as a stroke; or he would die of natural causes, or die in battle (vs. 10). Regardless of the details, it would be in God's timing and plan and not by David's hands. Instead of killing Saul, they stole his spear and water jug to demonstrate that they could have killed him (vs. 11-12).

I SAMUEL 26:13-25:

David taunted Abner, the captain of Saul's army, for failing to protect God's anointed during the night. For this failure, David said he should die. The evidence of his failure was Saul's spear and water jug (vs. 13-16).

Then David reasoned with Saul concerning the conflict between them. David suggested two reasons for the conflict and solutions to both of them. If Saul's actions were the result of being an instrument of God's

anger toward David, then he would offer a sacrifice of repentance. If the source was the jealousy and slander of men, then David asked for a curse to fall on them. David was tired of being on the run. David felt as insignificant as a flea and exhausted as a hunted bird. He had a fear that this conflict would rob him of his heritage of worshiping God in his homeland (vs. 13-20).

In response, Saul confessed his guilt and promised to harm David no more. David responded by returning Saul's spear, but remained cautious of Saul's intent. As Henry Halley wrote, Saul acknowledged being a fool but kept on being one (Halley's Bible Handbook, p. 182). David had the false concern that he would perish by the hand of Saul (27:1).

Insights from the Lesson: Fred Wolf raised the question, Could not hatred and violence toward Saul be justified in the name of righteous indignation? He suggested five options in responding to those you seek out to hurt: (Life and Work Lesson Annual, 1983-84, pp. 32-33)

(1) *The law of retaliation: do unto others because they do unto you. (Get even with them.)*

(2) *The law of escalation: do unto others more than they do unto you. (Be so mean they will never bother you again.)*

(3) *The law of prevention: Do unto others before they do unto you. (Get them before they get you.)*

(4) *The law of expediency: Do unto others that which will accomplish your goal. (The end justifies the means when eradicating a tyrant like Saul.)*

(5) *The law of the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. (Treat others as you want them to treat you.)*

The Golden rule is recognized as the best option but challenges many in its practice.

In this conflict, David takes the high ground by respecting God's anointed authority without an endorsement of unworthy actions by the one in authority. David's actions toward Saul show his faith that God would resolve the conflict in His own way and in His own time.

Anderson is pastor emeritus of First Church, Saltillo.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be Wise About Family

Proverbs 18:22; 31:10; 24:3-4; 14:1; 21:19; 15:17; 12:4; 19:14; 20:7; 16:21,23; 13:24; 23:13-14; 19:18; 29:15; 22:6; 23:24

By Ann Maniscalco

And they lived happily ever after...and so ended our favorite fairy tale. Ahh, the lovely couple, the perfectly orchestrated wedding, the blissful honeymoon then today's couple wakes up in the real world! He doesn't pick up his clothes, she can't cook like his mother does... and those after-wedding bills! Thankfully, Christian couples have access to an excellent, thorough manual to help them build a strong marriage their Bible. This new family will flourish by following God's eternal guidelines.

Even if you are single or don't have children, you still have family members or friends with family. As you study this lesson, may it help you relate to these in a biblically sound manner. Perhaps God wants to equip you to mentor family members and friends who might not be well grounded in the scriptures.

ACCEPTING GOD'S DESIGN (PROV. 18:22; 31:10; 24:3-4):

Several of the scripture passages focus of the virtues of a wife. However, the truths concerning the value of godly wisdom in the marriage relationship are equally important for both spouses. For additional references concerning God's design for marriage, see Genesis 2:21-25, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:21-33 and Colossians 3:18-19.

When a man finds a wife, according to Proverbs 18:22, he finds a good thing. Marriage can be a source of great blessing. The capable wife (the word virtuous KJV, and noble character NIV) is said to be of much greater value than precious gems. This wife will look to God to make her a woman of virtue. The wise husband will make it his business to encourage the wife to develop her faith to grow spiritually, and will do what he can to support



Maniscalco

her in this endeavor. Wisdom, understanding and knowledge cause the home to be rightly built, established and filled. Obviously, the treasure of verse 4 does not refer to ornate furnishings. The Hebrew word *hon*, which can mean wealth and riches, also refers to possessions or valuable things. The value of a family that loves, respects and supports one another is a beautiful treasure beyond compare!

RELATE WISELY TO YOUR SPOUSE (PROV. 14:1; 21:19; 15:17; 12:4; 19:14):

Again, both husband and wife should give attention to these truths, as they refer to such things as building up ones spouse and family (14:1), attempting to live in peace and harmony (21:19), putting aside hateful attitudes and focusing on loving behavior (15:17), and not engaging in actions that would cause shame (12:4).

Nagging, letting tempers flare, degrading one another, and allowing hatred and unforgiveness to fester make a miserable

home life. The writer says it would be preferable to live in a wilderness or to only dine on a meal of vegetables than to have these situations in the home. To avoid such hostilities, the couple should commit themselves to emulating Paul's instructions in Colossians 3:12-15. Christ's followers are to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (vs. 12). They are to forgive, put on love, allow the peace of Christ [to] rule in [their] hearts and be thankful (vss. 13-15). Those who follow these precepts will strengthen their home.

RELATE RESPONSIBLY TO YOUR CHILDREN PROV. 20:7; 16:21,23; 13:24; 23:13-14; 19:18; 29:15; 22:6; 23:24:

Want to have happy children? Live with integrity and righteousness (20:7). The one who seeks this will find his heart prepared, resulting in speech that falls on receptive ears (16:21,23).

Discipline is vital to raising a godly child. There are many methods that can be employed by parents, but to ignore the rod (the Greek word also means stick) is to refuse to accept God's teaching on the matter. For

emphasis, the term is used at least four times in Scripture. (See also Proverbs 22:15).

Parents controlled by the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) will not engage in harsh punishment; love, gentleness, and self control will result in discipline that shows love (13:24), imparts wisdom (29:15), delivers from destruction (23:14 and 19:18), and keeps the child on the right path (22:6). Hebrews 12:9 teaches that a properly disciplined child will respect the parent. An undisciplined child brings disgrace to the parents (29:15), but proper training produces one who is a delight (23:24). The child who must have insulin or allergy shots will experience temporary unpleasantness, but the injections will produce lasting benefits...so it is with discipline.

If you are confused about this issue, prayerfully study these scriptures and talk to Christian parents who've raised happy, well-adjusted children.

God's wise design for the family results in a household that provides a loving, nurturing environment for all.

Maniscalco is member of First Church, Ocean Springs.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) email, (b) three-and-a-half inch (3.5") disk or (c) CD-R. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 114, Jackson, MS 39205-0114. FAX: (662) 323-1141. E-mail: bjt@juno.com

THE BAPTIST
Record

Fishing champ to speak at First, Madison

Professional fisherman Jimmy Houston will be the guest speaker at First Church, Madison's annual Wild Game



Houston

Dinner on February 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Activities Center.

Houston, founder of the Fellowship of Christian Anglers Society, made headlines last year when he refused to fish in a lucrative national tournament that required participants to use beer company logos on their equipment.

Houston is a two-time winner of the BASS Angler of the Year title, and is a member of the Fishing Hall of Fame, Hall of Legendary Anglers, and an original inductee into the Pro Bass Angler Association Hall of Fame.

The author of two books — Hooked for Life, and The Reel Line — Houston serves as a deacon at First Church, Keys, Ok.

The cost of the Wild Game Supper is \$10 per person. Tickets go on sale January 26. For more information, call the church office at 856-6177, ext. 200.

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By Charles Marx
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NEJ UL QND NHZPL LCS

DUFLC CZPT, NEJ LCSTS

QND N JNTWESDD ZOST

NKK LCS SNTLC PELUK

LCS EUELC CZPT.

KPWS LQSELG-LCTSS:
AZTLG-AZPT

Clue: J = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos 8:9

Pickering gets recess judicial appointment

WASHINGTON (BP and local) — President George W. Bush used his recess appointing power Jan. 16 to install Mississippi Baptist Charles Pickering to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in a move sure to draw criticism from Democrats, the Associated Press reported.

The recess appointment means that Pickering — a U.S. district judge in Mississippi who had been filibustered by Senate Democrats — will serve until January 2005, when the next Congress is sworn in, AP reported. Until then, Pickering's appointment will not have to be confirmed.

"I'm grateful to the president for his continued confidence and support," Pickering told AP. "I look forward to serving on the Fifth Circuit."

Pickering is one of six Bush nominees who have been filibustered by Senate Democrats. All have received enough votes for confirmation but not enough votes to overcome the filibuster.

Pickering, a member of First Church, Laurel, and former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, has been lambasted by Democrats for what they perceive as racism insensitivity and religious activism. His personal opposition to abortion has also drawn fire from liberals.

Needing 60 votes to stop the filibuster and bring the nomination to a Senate floor vote, Pickering received 54 votes in October.

"I like President Bush's style," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, told Baptist Press. "He's not allowing a small clique of radical liberal senators who are seeking to use the filibuster rules to subvert the constitutional process to keep him from performing his constitutional duty to put well-qualified judges on the appeals courts of the nation."

Judge Pickering should long before now have been confirmed, and I am grateful that President Bush is using this resource available to him to allow Judge Pickering to serve his country and the American people on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals."

Abortion-rights, civil-rights and some church-state organizations have fueled the campaign against Pickering. Supporters of his confirmation, however, have charged the opposition with basing its campaign in large part on a distortion of Pickering's record on civil rights early in his career.

Pickering's supporters have said he took what was a dangerous stand on race relations at that time — testifying against an imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan in 1967. Pickering's nomination to the appeals court had been endorsed by the Black Caucus of

the Mississippi Legislature, and African-American U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate of Jackson was present at Pickering's swearing-in ceremony late last week.

Other African-American leaders oppose Pickering's nomination, however, including Mississippi Second District Congressman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, and the Congressional Black Caucus.



Pickering

Bush is by no means the first president to use a recess appointment. Former President Clinton used a recess appointment for a homosexual activist and philanthropist James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg, among numerous others to various posts, including at least one judge to a federal appeals court who otherwise would have required Senate confirmation.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is based in New Orleans covering the states of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

"I remain hopeful," Land said, "that the American people will soon demand an end to the constant obstructionism being practiced through the Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, Tom Daschle liberal clique in Washington, D.C."

Pickering, when first nominated to the appeals court in 2001, quickly encountered opposition particularly in regard to race relations. His nomination was rejected in a 10-9 party-line vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee in March 2002 when Democrats held a majority in the upper chamber.

"Although I am disappointed, I am in good spirits," Pickering said after the vote. His faith, he said, had not been weakened.

"I will not let what has happened to me during this process embitter me or shape the balance of my life. Life is too precious.

"I am extremely disturbed that judicial confirmation has degenerated into such a bitter and mean-spirited process. I sincerely hope that no other nominee has to go through what has happened to me. The price of public service should not be so high."

Pickering said he was "touched and humbled that those who know me best, my friends and neighbors in Mississippi, both African-American and white, both Democrat and Republican ...defended my record in such a gracious and magnanimous way."

Joe McKeever, pastor of First Church in Kenner, La., and a former pastor in Mississippi, said he first met Pickering in the 1970s, describing him in a Baptist Press first-person piece as "a young county attorney [who] was distinguishing himself by standing up for racial justice. Charles was a deacon and Sunday School teacher in his local church. He even took on the KKK by testifying in court against Sam Bowers, imperial wizard of the White Knights of the KKK, in the firebombing death of a civil rights activist named Vernon Dahmer. ...One did not decide to speak out against these people lightly. Some of them might be sitting in your church on Sunday or living next door to you. Charles did speak up, and for his troubles was defeated in the next election.

"Over the years, Charles continued to forge a record of courageous leadership in many areas, particularly in the matter of racial reconciliation." Once, he gave the address at the annual meeting of the state chapter of the NAACP. At a time when politicians would talk out of both sides of their mouths — getting with the good old boys and smiling at their bigotry, meeting with the activists and pledging support for their agenda — Charles did not play that game. He set a high standard of integrity and courage."

Pickering's son, Mississippi Third District Congressman Chip Pickering, a Republican, said of those who targeted his father over race relations, "The reality is, not one member on that (Senate judicial) committee risked his life and career for the voting rights of African Americans. My father's life was threatened. His family's safety was threatened. He lost his next political race. Not one member of that committee ...has demonstrated the commitment to bring better race relations and racial reconciliation to their communities and state [that] my father has."

U.S. Senate remains battleground for pro-life issues

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Senate again appears to hold the fate of several pro-life measures in its hands during this congressional year.

Whether it is outlawing human cloning, barring patents on human embryos, punishing those who harm preborn children, or guarding parental involvement in teenagers' abortion decisions, the House of Representatives already has given approval or seems ready to do so.

The Senate is a different matter. There, abortion-rights activists wield more power — and it is in the Senate alone where possibly the most significant pro-life battles of the year will be fought over the confir-

mation of federal appeals court nominees. Senate Democrats already are blocking up-or-down votes on five nominees, all whom they fear will support pro-life decisions.

In addition to the Senate's recalcitrance, pro-life members of Congress also face the added hurdle of an election year. With both presidential and congressional elections set in November, pro-lifers expect a repeat of the normal delays on legislation in such years.

On the positive side, pro-life efforts in the Senate are following on the heels of a significant pro-life victory last year — enactment of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act eight years after its initial introduction.

They also possess the benefit of a citizenry that public opinion polls show is increasingly pro-life and a Senate majority leader who supports their efforts.

The House passed a comprehensive ban on human cloning by 86 votes in February, but the Senate has yet to act on it. Kansas Republican Senator Sam Brownback is pushing a companion bill in the Senate that would prohibit — like the House-approved version — cloning for the purpose of reproducing a child, as well as cloning with the intention of creating an embryo on which to perform research.

Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, however, have stymied Brownback's efforts by

backing a measure that would permit research cloning while banning reproductive cloning. Hatch's bill would not allow an embryo to live beyond 14 days.

The House approved in December a ban on granting patents on human beings as part of an omnibus spending bill. It is uncertain, however, whether the Senate will pass the measure when it reconvenes Jan. 20. The amendment by Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., would codify a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy that prohibits patents on human beings at any stage of development. The measure especially is designed to block biotechnology firms and researchers from gaining patents on human embryos.